THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After examining the request, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh was informed that the outlays under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) are allocated in full to the States at the beginning of the financial year by the Planning Commission, Hence, allocation of the additional funds during the financial year may be difficult. The State Government was also informed about the enhanced allocations for 2004-05 from Rs. 32.77 crore to Rs. 65.81 crore under NSDP and release of entire enhanced allocated fund of Rs. 65.81 crore.

(c) Does not arise.

Preparations for Olympics

1927. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have made any assessment of the preparations/training being given to the athletes and players for the next Olympics Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Centra! Government to get/win medals in commensurate with the size of the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The preparation/training of sportspersons for major international events, including the Olympic Games, is an ongoing process which takes into account inputs provided by the National Sports Federations. A systematic approach is adopted to the selection and training of sportpersons/teams for participation in the major international events by drawing up Long Term Development Programmes (LTDPs) with the help of former international sportspersons and sports scientists/experts to put in action a four year rolling Plan. Under this, sportspersons selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training. The LTDP is also subjected to annual review.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of National Sports Federations in the preparation/training of selected sportspersons/teams in the following manner:—

(i) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.

(ii) Intensive coaching of players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iii) Intensive training abroad to the teams as well as Indian coaches.

(iv) Financial assistance to the federations concerned for the participation of teams/sportspersons in international tournaments.

(v) Scholarships to outstanding boys and girls are provided so that they can have a nutritious diet, secure sports equipment support and pursue sports as a career. Scholarships are also given to women under scheme of "Special Scholarships for Women" for undertaking research in sports related subjects.

(vi) Assistance for the purchase of equipment and scientific support and training under Indian/foreign coaches to elite sportspersons under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training" and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

Sports in concurrent list

1928. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal for bringing "sports" under the Concurrent List; and

(b) whether Government propose to have a sports policy for promotion of sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has already formulated a National Sports Policy, 2001 for promotion of sports in the country.